

THE **SHAKERITE**

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COVER SHOT

Holding fire, as depicted on the front cover, can be experienced in Travis Cox's chemistry class. Don't be fooled into thinking that the fire alarm Nov. 30 occurred because of this experiment. The real cause was in the hands of science teacher John Moore and a colleague, who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. See page 9 for the full story behind the 20-minute stand in the cold.

12.16.09

THE SHAKERITE

Volume 80 • Issue 3
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JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27. Winter Break	28. Winter Break	29. Winter Break	30. Winter Break	31. Winter Break	1. New Year's Day	2. Ice Hockey vs. Strongsville @ Ice Land 6:30 pm  Cavaliers vs. Bobcats 6:00 pm
3.  Ice Hockey vs. Chagrin Fall @ The Pond 7:40 pm  Cavaliers vs. Washington 6:00 pm	4. Classes Resume	5.  Men's Basketball @ St. Vincent - St. Mary H.S. 7:30 pm	6. 7:00 pm Improv Show	7. 12th graders parents Financial Aid Meeting 7:00 pm	8.  Ice Hockey vs. Hudson 9:00 pm  Men's Basketball @ Euclid High School 7:30 pm	9.  Women's Basketball vs. Mentor High School 7:30 pm Wrestling @ Fairless Tournament 9:00 am
10.	11.	12.	13.  Women's Basketball @ Euclid High School 7:30 pm	14.	15. 8:30 am - 11:30 am - History Final Exam 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Math Final Exam  Ice Hockey vs. Kenston 9:00 pm	16.  Ice Hockey Walsh Jesuit Tournament @ Kent State  Women's Basketball vs. Bedford High School 7:30 pm
17.  Ice Hockey Walsh Jesuit Tournament @ Kent State	18. No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day  Ice Hockey Walsh Jesuit Tournament @ Kent State	19. 8:30 am-11:30 am - English Final Exam 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Science Final Exam  Cavaliers vs. Raptors 7:00 pm	20. 8:30 am-11:30 am - Foreign Language Final Exam 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Conflicts Final Exam	21. 8:30 am-11:30 am - Conflicts Final Exam 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Conflicts Final Exam Great Dane Day	22. No School End of First Semester 8:00 pm Winter Ball  Ice Hockey @ Mentor High School 6:00 pm	23. SAT 7:45 am-1:00 pm Men's Basketball vs. Cleveland Heights High School 2:00 pm  Ice Hockey @ North Olmsted 3:30 pm
24.	25. Second Semester Begins	26.	27. Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm Women's Basketball vs. Regina High School 7:30 pm Cavaliers vs. Timber Wolves 7:00 pm	28. Wind Ensemble @ OMEA in Cincinnati Wrestling vs. Benedictine 7:00 pm	29. Wind Ensemble @ OMEA in Cincinnati Women's Basketball vs. St. Vincent-St. Mary H.S. 7:30 pm	30. Wind Ensemble @ OMEA in Cincinnati  Men's Basketball vs. Bedford High School 2:00 pm
31.  Cavaliers vs. Clippers 7:00 pm						

Compiled by Julia Celeste



Two students talking about a future business enterprise...

Student 1: "Then we would be rich..."

Student 2: "Then we could go to Taco Bell..."

Student 1: "Then we could buy a Taco Tell..."

Student 2: "Then we could buy Mexico."

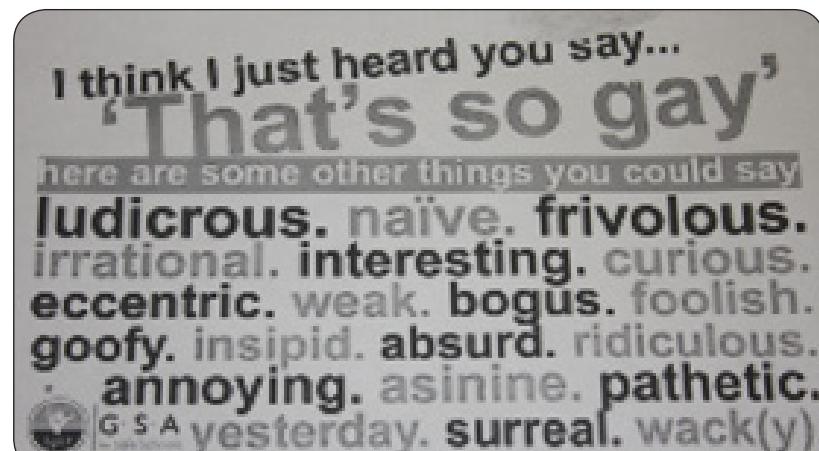
"Who the hell brings a six-pack to a party? I'm trying to make mistakes."

"Dude, I totally take dirty pictures of myself all the time and then post them to continentalairlines.com."

"I just saw this girl wearing a Catholic school uniform buying a pregnancy test . . . with a coupon."

Student 1: "Have you ever seen pride and prejudice?"

Student 2: "No, I have testicles."



THIS POSTER WAS one of many that appeared around the school during the week of Dec. 7 and challenged students to reconsider their use of the word "gay" as a multipurpose insult. See more on the response from Shaker students on page 6.

Anonymous • The Shakerite



FRENCH CLUB CHOCOLATE SALES PERSIST AT SCHOOL

Although students are no longer allowed to sell candy during school, Malley's candy bars are a profitable fixation in the cafeteria. "With the profit at the end of last year, we were able to pay for the full down payment of \$300 for eight students," French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik said. Sophomore Hannah Nielson, a member of the French Club, said that she has raised about \$700 toward her 2010 French trip. Gyurgyik said that fewer students are selling chocolate bars this year than last year. While the French fundraiser is for a school activity, some non-school sponsored teams are taking advantage of the student market. Sophomore Mark Lewandowski sells chocolate bars for his travel baseball team.

JOAN THOMPSON

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the
H's

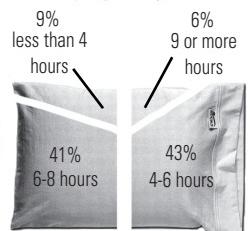
LET'S TALK SLEEP

A new study conducted by Finnish scientists suggests that oversleeping can actually decrease your lifespan. The study reported if you sleep more than eight hours a day, your mortality risk increases about 20 percent.

6-7

The number of hours of sleep on average a teenager gets nightly

About how many hours of sleep do you get a night?



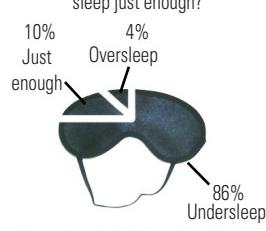
20

The percentage of high schoolers who say they have fallen asleep in class

9

The number of hours of sleep a teenager needs each night

Do you oversleep, undersleep or sleep just enough?



Compiled by Dana Finley

WILL THE IB PROGRAM PROTECT US FROM CHINA?

- Rise of Chinese economy cited during IB training

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

China's status as a rising superpower was prominent during the Nov. 3 district-wide professional development session.

The session was the first effort to educate teachers who will eventually implement the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program in grades 5-10. Prior to presentations from two IB trainers in the Large Auditorium, three administrators made introductory remarks. All three mentioned fear of China's growth and their hope that IB can compete with it.

Middle School Principal Randall Yates and Assistant Superintendent Jim Paces spoke about China's economic influence. Paces couldn't be reached for comment because he was in China, interviewing potential Chinese language teachers for the district.

"I remember [Yates] mentioning how our kids say 'Who's your daddy?' but theirs' will say 'Come to papa,'" English teacher Valerie Doersen said. "I thought this was an indication that China, as a rising international power, will gain economic and political power to rival or perhaps surpass the U.S. I couldn't figure out how IB fits into that, but I presume it deals with more international



THIS SIGN IDENTIFIES Room 220 as a Confucius Classroom, where Chinese language classes are taught daily.

awareness."

Faculty who attended the training said Yates asserted China has more honor students than the United States has students in general. He also cited the number of Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in China and said Chinese workers are eager for training to work at KFC. He encouraged teachers to embrace IB to help Shaker graduates compete with China's rising power.

Though China is fearsome to some, others feel its role is being blown out of proportion.

"I don't know about this, but let's not take anything out of context," said Spanish teacher Leslie Foote. "I don't think fear is a good basis for action unless you're in immediate danger. A better world depends on international cooperation."

Though Foote is excited about IB, it isn't because he's afraid of China.

"IB students are required to take a foreign language, so it can be assumed such students are better prepared to compete in a global market. But it's not about competing with China. The philosophy is to encourage and develop independent learners passionate about social justice and other qualities," he said.

As the Chinese economy and middle class have grown, Chinese consumers are buying more. Corporations are quickly expanding into China to meet needs.

According to a January 2005 MSNBC report, a representative of Yum! Brands, KFC's operator, said the number of KFCs in China would eventually exceed those in the U.S. as China's population exceeds 1.3 billion. The population of the United States is approximately 300 million people.

Economics teacher Elizabeth Plautz said China fears are unfounded. "I don't think China concerns people per se, but our place in an increasingly global economy does," she said. She acknowledged fear of the U.S. losing dominance to growing nations, but said it wouldn't happen anytime soon.

"We should embrace globalization and work to eliminate trade barriers, which hurt our economy in the long run. Current economic concerns aren't foreign, but domestic," she said.

Plautz also isn't sure how the China comments and IB relate. She said, "Given its global perspective, IB should teach us not to fear China, but embrace its development."

Two Shaker grads indicted on double count of murder

BY VICTORIA FYDRYCH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two Shaker graduates face charges of felonious assault and murder after allegedly beating 23-year-old Christopher Kernich to death.

Adrian Barker, 21, and Ronald Kelly, 20, both of whom attend the University of Akron, were arrested Nov. 15 after allegedly assaulting the Kent State student. According to police, Kernich was almost hit by a vehicle carrying the two men as it was pulling out of a parking lot; Kernich shouted at the car, although what he said has not been confirmed. The suspects pulled over ahead of Kernich, left the car and assaulted him.

Kernich remained in critical condition at Akron City Hospital for seven days; he died Nov. 21.

Facebook groups quickly formed in support and condemnation of Barker and Kelly. Both groups posted versions of the assault that conflicted with the official police report. The Facebook group "DONT [sic] Support Ronald Kelly and Adrian Barker; keep the criminals behind bars" claimed to have a firsthand account of the event. The group had 2,639 members on Dec. 10.

"The official support group for Ronald Kelly Nunn and Adrian Barker," created in defense of the two men, boasts approximately 1,845 members, many of whom are Shaker students. The group's information includes a copy of Kent State student media report of the event. Following the article are claims by group members and group administrators of biased and unfair coverage.

The support group also claims to have "a much more accurate telling of the story." The page claims that Kernich was not beaten, but was hurt incidentally: "Now the young man who was put into critical condition was never stomped senselessly, he was in fact on top of the car and got flung to the ground while the three individuals tried to leave [a fraternity] party in their automobile. In the process he hit his head." The Summit County Coroner's Office ruled the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head and declared the case a homicide.

Barker also faces charges of an unclassified felony as well as obstructing official business. At his arraignment Dec. 8, Barker pleaded not guilty to both counts of murder; his bond was set at \$1 million. His trial will begin Feb. 1 in Portage County. Kelly was to be arraigned Dec. 14 at press time.

THE FOOD WAS YUMMIER BEFORE

- Students, faculty complain that cafeteria offerings have declined since new service debuted last year

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

When AVI Food Systems began serving lunch in the newly renovated cafeteria last January, students and teachers enjoyed the food quality and variety. A year later, however, the honeymoon is over.

"This is false labeling, this isn't a chicken wrap," senior Ian Stein said of his buffalo chicken wrap from the Hot Shoppe. "It looks like they took regular chicken, lettuce and tomato and wrapped it up." After pausing, he decided to eat it anyway.

Students and teachers say food quality and availability have declined since last year. Despite promises of faster moving serving lines after the renovation, cafeteria users complained they aren't faster.

"I feel like they'll feed us anything now, but when [the cafeteria] first opened, they had real good food," junior Chella Payne said. "Now it's nasty, and I don't eat lunch here anymore."

Some teachers complained about vegetarian or kosher availability. On Dec. 4, they said vegetarian or kosher options weren't at the Nutribar fourth period; all salads had ham or bacon toppings. They also complained panini sandwiches are no longer available at the Hot Shoppe.

"I'm a vegetarian and find my choices limited because I don't always want pre-made salad or lettuce wraps," said English teacher Eleni Manous-Nolan.

"Even if I did, they aren't available daily. I eat lunch fourth period, so I'd assume everything is well."

stocked. Once I wanted cheese pizza, but I was told the pepperoni pizza must run out before cheese is served. After a 10 minute wait, a sausage one came out!" she said.

Manous-Nolan doesn't blame the cafeteria workers. "They're just following orders. But didn't anyone hear of a half pepperoni, half cheese pizza?" she said.

Despite a new food provider, Stein didn't expect changed food quality. "Sometimes it's better than others. I think they run out of ingredients for something and put in whatever else they have," he said.

Stein also dislikes the rib sandwiches. "They used to have barbecue sauce and look normal. Now they're disturbing and have pink spots!" he said.

"It's not quite the food in my opinion, but lines are too long," sophomore Jane Amusat said. "I thought they'd be shorter. They're like the middle school's lines."

"I only get chicken sandwiches and tacos from the cafeteria. Most things I don't try because they look disgusting," junior Damon Anderson said. "I mostly go out to lunch instead of eating here."

Cafeteria staff supervisor Cindy Gorfido looked into complaints. "The riblets are pre-cooked and furnished to us through the Ohio Department of Education Commodity Program. They meet all safety standards," she stated. She also said the school receives daily food shipments and isn't running out of ingredients.

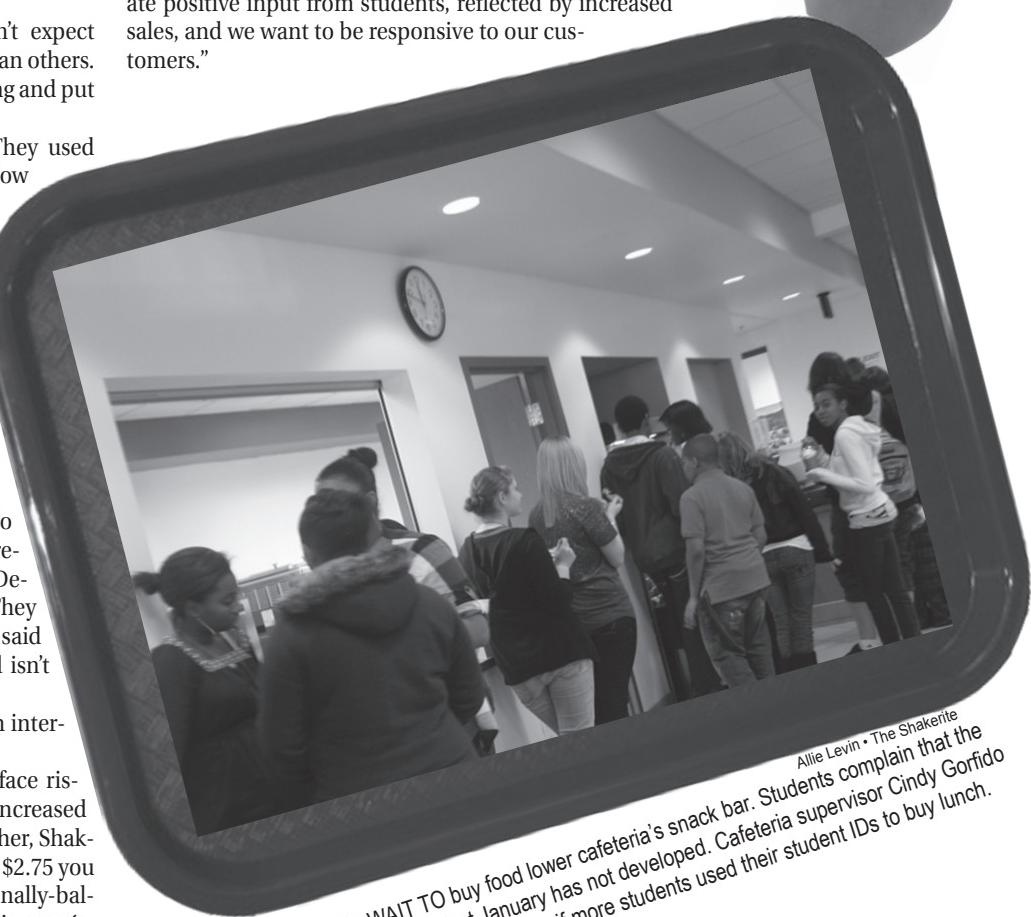
AVI Food Systems didn't respond to an interview request.

Gorfido noted all school districts face rising cafeteria food costs because of increased food shipping costs. According to her, Shaker has kept its prices stable. "For \$2.75 you may get a complete, nutritionally-balanced meal, including a main entrée, fruit, vegetable and milk. A meal of à la carte items may cost more, like

in a restaurant. But meals at school are better for you and a better money value than fast food," she explained.

She stated lines would move faster if more students purchased food with their ID cards.

Despite complaints, Gorfido stated more students buy lunch since the cafeteria's renovation. "We appreciate positive input from students, reflected by increased sales, and we want to be responsive to our customers."



STUDENTS WAIT TO buy food lower cafeteria's snack bar. Students complain that the faster service touted last January has not developed. Cafeteria supervisor Cindy Gorfido said that lines would move faster if more students used their student IDs to buy lunch.
Allie Levin • The Shakerite

IT'S NOT A CLUBHOUSE

- Tighter rules for lower cafeteria after last year's late stays, fights

BY CLARESSA RIDDLE PAYNE
STAFF REPORTER

Shaker opened the lower cafeteria last year to expand seating and provide an after-school waiting area for rides, but it became an evening hotspot for students to loiter.

This year, the lower cafeteria will open at 4 p.m., a half hour later than last year, to ensure only students waiting for rides are there.

In addition, students now must sign into a log book before waiting in the lower cafeteria. They are to list their name, parents' name and phone number.

Last year the area was intended to provide a lobby, under the watchful eye of security, to keep students from roaming hallways while waiting for rides. Faculty complain that roving students are loud and disruptive during the conference period.

Instead, students used the lower cafeteria to lounge until as late as 8 p.m.

"We want to give students a nice, warm place to relax as they wait on parents. It's a lunch room, not a recreation center."

They were taking advantage of it," Head of Security Victor Ferrell said.

He said last year, students would play cards, fight and clown around while waiting for practice to begin or because they didn't want to go home.

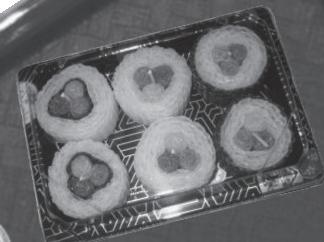
About 30 students were seen in hallways instead of inside the cafeteria Dec. 1 at around 4 p.m. Additionally, 18 students surveyed in the cafeteria said they roam the halls because they don't want to stay in the same place or are going back and forth to see teachers for conferences.

"I meet my friends by the auditorium, and then we rap in the halls," freshman Will Naugle said. "Walking around gives us ideas on what to rap about."

On Dec. 1, supervision in the lower cafeteria was low-key. Security personnel did not circulate through the space during a 90-minute observation. Students' log-in information was often incomplete. At one point, another security guard walked in and yelled at a student who was standing on a chair.

Ferrell said, "It's really important that students are supervised and signing in. If security isn't making them, that's just, just, wow, that will be taken care of!"

LONG LINES LIKE these are typical of the wait students must brave in the upper cafeteria's hot food line to buy lunch.
Allie Levin • The Shakerite



SOWELL CASE, RESPONSE PROVOKE FRUSTRATION

And so the story begins...

A rash of murders in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of eastern Cleveland made headlines around the country when police discovered decomposed bodies inside the Imperial Avenue house of sex offender Anthony Sowell Oct. 29. The remains were discovered after police entered Sowell's home, a duplex he shared with his stepmother, with search and arrest warrants after a woman reported that she had been raped by him. Sowell was not at his home when the police arrived to make their arrest but he was found on the street about a mile away Oct. 31. Sowell, 50, spent 15 years behind bars for attempting to rape a 21 year old in 1989.

Although he is a sex offender, he was not on probation or parole prior to the discovery of the bodies. By Nov. 1, investigators had located six bodies, and by Nov. 4, 11 bodies had been recovered from Sowell's home and backyard. All victims were identified as African-American females. The women identified as his victims went missing as long ago as May 2007. Neighbors noted a foul odor coming from Sowell's property prior to the police's gruesome discovery. Initially, the adjacent sausage shop was thought to be the source of the smell. At press time, Sowell had been indicted on murder charges in the deaths of the 11 women, as well as other counts that included kidnapping, abuse of a corpse, attempted murder, assault and rape.

Dana Finley



Imperial Ave. corner



Sowell's home

TRAGEDY Undetected

• Cleveland Police face scrutiny in wake of discovery in Anthony Sowell's home

After the initial shock receded, the questions began. How could Cleveland native Anthony Sowell, who is suspected of killing 11 women and storing their remains his Imperial Avenue home, have gone undetected for so long?

"I see a system that's completely broken," Cleveland Councilman Zack Reed told the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "How do we miss this guy? We need to figure out how that happened, or it can happen again."

According to Natalie White, co-founder of the Maryland-based advocacy group Black and Missing, Inc., that failure is not unusual. "It's tragic, yet, not surprising. When we hear of missing persons, we immediately conjure up images of the 'All American' young white female, with blonde hair and blue eyes," White stated in an email interview. "In our community, it's not deemed a priority and it's constantly swept under the rug."

According to the group's website, Black and Missing Inc. "is an organization whose sole purpose is to maximize exposure of missing persons of color, so they can receive the awareness needed to be reunited with their families." Each year, 298,467 people of minority background are reported missing in the United States. Of that number, 86 percent are African American.

In June 2007, a woman complained to Reed about a stench in the Imperial Avenue neighborhood. Two years after the stench started, it finally became apparent in September that the aroma originated at Sowell's residence next door.

"Clearly, the ball was dropped in this case, and someone must be held accountable," White stated. Derrica Wilson, co-founder and CEO of Black and Missing Inc., who is an experienced police officer, indicated that the stench of death is hard to miss. "It is disturbing to know it wasn't followed-up on," she stated.

In December 2008 police entered Sowell's home after a woman claimed she was attacked by a man named Tone. They found blood on the stairs and on a wall leading into the home. Sowell was arrested but was released two days later with no charges filed.

A city prosecutor told the Plain Dealer that a detective claimed the woman wasn't credible and that the case lacked sufficient evidence. However, Lt. Thomas Stacho, public information officer for the Cleveland Police Department, stated in an email interview that the detective who investigated the attack presented facts to the prosecutor's office. "Nowhere in the investigative file reviewed by the prosecutor's office does the detective opine that the victim was not credible," Stacho stated.

Stacho added that the Cleveland Police Department will review their performance in the case when the investigation is complete. "As with any high profile incident or matter, we will conduct a critical review of our actions to include a review or our policies and procedures," Stacho stated.

That investigation will likely offer little consolation to the victims' families. "It is clear that a person of color's life is less valued than persons of the majority," White wrote. "It's clear the families' request for police assistance fell on deaf ears. The response to the families from authorities is unjust, unprofessional and unacceptable."

Dana Finley

Ohio law dictates long-term consequences for sex offenders

Tier I: Sex offenders must register with the county sheriff at least once per year for 15 years. In addition, they must register any change of address, employment or enrollment in a school or college.

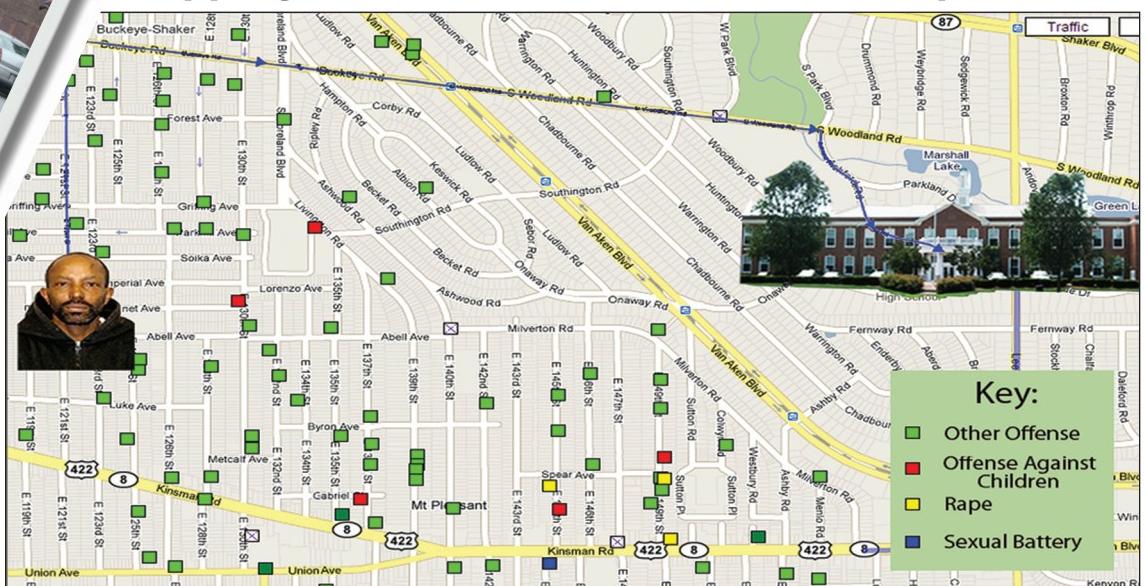
Tier II: Sex offenders must register with the county sheriff every 180 days for 25 years. In addition, they must register any change of address, employment or enrollment in a school or college.

Tier III (Anthony Sowell): Sex offenders must register with the county sheriff every 90 days for life. In addition, they must register any change of address, employment or enrollment in a school or college.

Note: Upon a change of residential address, Tier III sex offenders may also be subject to community notification, when county sheriff provides notice to neighbors within 1,000 feet of the sex offender's dwelling. The County Sheriff will also provide notice to schools, registered day-care providers, and law enforcement agencies within the county.

SOURCE: OHIO GOVT.

Mapping sex offenders from SHHS to Imperial Ave.



Infographic by Brandon Mercer

Dana Finley • The Shakerite

Shaker Speaks

12.16.09



PAYING TO APPLY: THE UNKNOWN COLLEGE COST

Should we really have to pay for college applications? For many seniors, paying simply for the chance to be considered (and rejected) by a college seems completely ridiculous. But underclassmen should understand that there are ways to avoid these nasty fees through financial aid. If you are eligible for fee waivers on SAT or SAT subject tests, you can apply for up to four Requests for Waiver of College Application Fees. Although this isn't an option for all students, it is available to those who really need it. (For a list of all schools accepting Request for Waiver of College Application Fee forms, visit www.collegeboard.com.) Also, I've found a few schools that have free applications (like John Carroll University). Applying to college doesn't have to be a pain in the wallet if you go about it in a smart way.

BRI ADAMSON

Students skip class to study

Although this might not be admirable, I rarely set foot inside our school library for more than a few minutes outside of class. The library isn't like the senior lounge – it's not equipped with flat screen TV's or a ping-pong table or even comfortable seating.

Despite my own poor library attendance, the library has grown into a spot for students to skip class to finish assignments. The library may have computers with little oversight or security, but the atmosphere doesn't seem to be a good place to skip class in.

This year, the librarians have implemented a new sign-in system requiring students to register their class period and reason for using the library.

While at first, this policy seemed as if it were designed to drive students away from the library, the librarians are actually just trying to relate to the students more.

The librarians are not aiming to cut down on the number of students in the library, but are trying to do the opposite. Librarian Patricia Lawrence says that the new policy simply gauges attendance and allows the library to better serve students during busy periods.

Lawrence also said that the policy has not helped the library staff determine who is skipping class and who is not, and the librarians did not implement the sign-in system solely to alleviate this problem.

In keeping with that same theme, library technician Cindy Johnson said that she wanted the library to be a "friendly" place, and the sign-in sheet is just another tool in the library to help students.

While some of our classmates express dissatisfaction in response to tighter library "security," the sign-in sheet really is just something we have to go a few steps out of our way to sign. Stating your reason for using the library may seem a little intrusive, but the information is ultimately used for our own good.

One of my classmates, who skipped class to study, even told me that he developed a successful timing system to avoid signing the paper and possible "expulsion" from the library. Another signed a pseudonym instead of his own name. While this devotion to completing assignments is commendable, scheming to beat a sign-in system is too extreme.

When asked if they checked the online scheduling system to confirm that students were not skipping class, the librarians said that they did not always look up individual schedules.

The spotty enforcement of the secondary role of the policy is just another reason to sign the sheet in the library.

A piece of paper shouldn't be a point of contention - it's not a big deal, we should just sign in and move on.



Joan Thompson



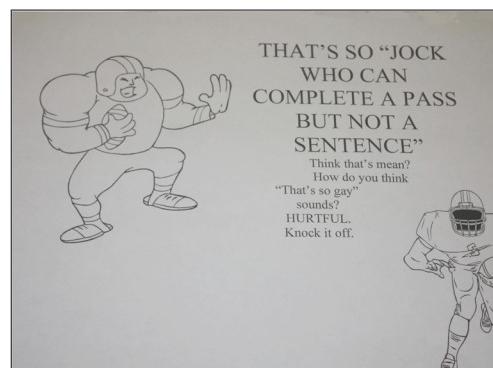
'THAT'S SO SHAKER'

- Posters around the school show an admirable attempt to promote social tolerance

"**T**hat's so Shakerite!" We don't like it either, so the point was well taken. Whatever the stereotype or group referred to, in this case, "That's so gay," no one wants to be the butt of the joke. Categorizing a group of people with real feelings and pride in their identity as an insult simply shows a complete lack of understanding and acceptance.

Shaker students often say that we live in the Shaker bubble, one with an unusually diverse atmosphere. Diversity, and acceptance of diversity, is a point of Shaker pride. Despite our well-known reputation, the flyers around the school clearly show how much work still needs to be done in the long run not just in terms of racial diversit, but also ac-

ceptance of sexual orientation.
While the idea was admirable, the execution left a lot to be desired. Students



walking through the hallway don't stop to read every sign they pass, but when the biggest, and possibly only words noted on a flyer are, "who can complete a pass but not a sentence?", it gives the wrong impression. Of course, we agree that it's wrong to use gay as a pejorative, but the design of the flyers may backfire. We understand the flyer was intended to highlight the harm behind the statement, "That's so gay." However, creating an image of unintelligent jocks and cheerleaders is unfair. It suggests that negative stereotypes are OK as long as they're not directed at you.

If gays are offended by the usage of the phrase "That's so gay", why is it okay to say "that's so jock?"

Although this was not the intention, it's easy to see how athletes and cheerleaders could be offended. But everyone should take a minute to really look at the posters; the real message is something Shaker needs to work on if we want to be known as a bastion of tolerance.

We need to become more conscious of what we are saying. Shaker, of all places, shouldn't be a place where it's acceptable to say, "That's so gay" so casually. Someone's identity shouldn't be an insult.

In that case, why is anybody even saying it?



THE PLASTIC PROBLEM

BY ILANA KRAMER
SHAKERSPEAKS EDITOR

Although the plastic containers in the cafeteria are sturdy and convenient, the effects they have on the environment are far from friendly.

Plastic is one of the most dangerous objects to the environment, yet we use huge amounts of it without a second thought.

An estimated 10 percent of the 100 million tons of plastic produced each year ends up in the sea. A circulating island of garbage formed by the currents in the North Pacific Gyre and estimated to be twice

the size of Texas, has been dubbed the Trash Vortex or the Eastern Garbage Patch. We are polluting the air with plastic production, and the seas with plastic destruction.

For every kilogram of plankton in this area, there are six kilograms of plastic.

The toxic materials that leak into the sea from plastic make their way up the food chain, killing thousands of animals. Saying that plastic will simply decompose over time is not an answer.

It takes at least 500 years for a standard plastic container to even begin to decompose, not counting the time it

takes for the object to actually deteriorate. Over a million sea birds and over 100,000 marine mammals are killed each year because of ingestion of and entanglement in plastic from the sea.

Sophomore Claire Lo started the high school's Green Club at the beginning of this year. The main goal of the club is to decrease the high school's carbon footprint, impact on the environment.

Lo said that the cafeteria is most likely the biggest contributor to Shaker's footprint, seeing how much

The Green Club is hoping for the administration to approve their proposed composting system for the high school, to dispose of uneaten food in a way that is

more environmentally friendly than simply throwing the uneaten food away

Their next project is to try to lower the amount of plastic used in the cafeteria. Although a long reach, Lo says that this goal is "very pursuable."



For Wal-Mart employees, no thanks on Thanksgiving day

BY RACHEL SHAW
SHAKERSPEAKS EDITOR

The founder of Wal-Mart, Sam Walton, believed, "The secret of successful retailing is to give your customers what they want."

On Thanksgiving, none of those customers wants to be at work. Why then, should Wal-Mart employees be arriving to work early Thanksgiving morning, replacing those finishing the night shift?

Wal-Mart's three corporate principles are respect for the individual, exceeding customers' expectations and striving for excellence.

Considering the way Wal-Mart treats its employees, these principles seem to apply exclusively to customers.

Wal-Mart employs 2.1 million Americans. The minimum wage in Ohio is \$7.25 an hour. On average, each full-time Wal-Mart employee earns \$10.84 an hour. To a student, this seems close to generous. On this salary, the family of four is \$2,000 below the federal poverty line of \$22,050 a year.

Meanwhile, Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott earned almost \$30 million in 2008, more than 1,500 times the salary of the average associate. This doesn't seem quite right. More than 2 million of his employees are living in poverty as he becomes ridiculously wealthy.

According to <http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/>, facts, if Wal-Mart raised its prices half a penny per

dollar, each employee could receive a \$1 an hour raise without affecting Wal-Mart's annual profit. The raise would amount to an extra \$1,800 yearly.

Besides paying its employees absurdly low wages, Wal-Mart has been known to refuse to pay overtime wages and provide rest and meal breaks. This prompted workers in Massachusetts to sue Wal-Mart.

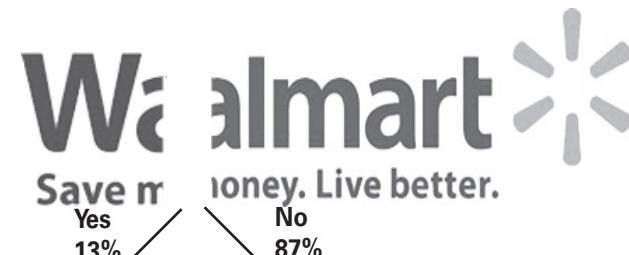
Although the company claims that "The lawsuit was filed years ago and the allegations are not representative of the company we are today," in 2008, Wal-Mart released a list of 63 lawsuits, which they settled for a total of \$640 million. And they just keep coming. It certainly seems as if that settlement money could be put to much better use by simply paying employees higher wages in the first place.

On top of actually helping employees, showing at least a little bit of humanity toward workers, instead of corporate coldness, certainly wouldn't hurt public relations.

When doctors work on Thanksgiving, there is a reason and a choice involved. Injuries and illness occur all the time.

What is so urgently needed that a million workers, nationwide, are standing in a Wal-Mart aisle, working through Thanksgiving, grossly underpaid for their time?

DO YOU SHOP AT WAL-MART?



Wal-Mart is commonly known to mistreat its workers through an absurdly low salary and by not offering worker benefits. Additionally, Wal-Mart is not easily accessible for most Shaker students. Citing cheap, occasionally well made products, 13 percent of polled students replied that they do shop at Wal-Mart. Despite the lure of cheap goods, 87 percent of polled students who replied that they did not shop at Wal-Mart provided a surprisingly small variety of reasons -- geographical limitations and mistreatment of employees. Wal-Mart's unjust, uncaring actions toward employees are very well known. So why are they still happening?

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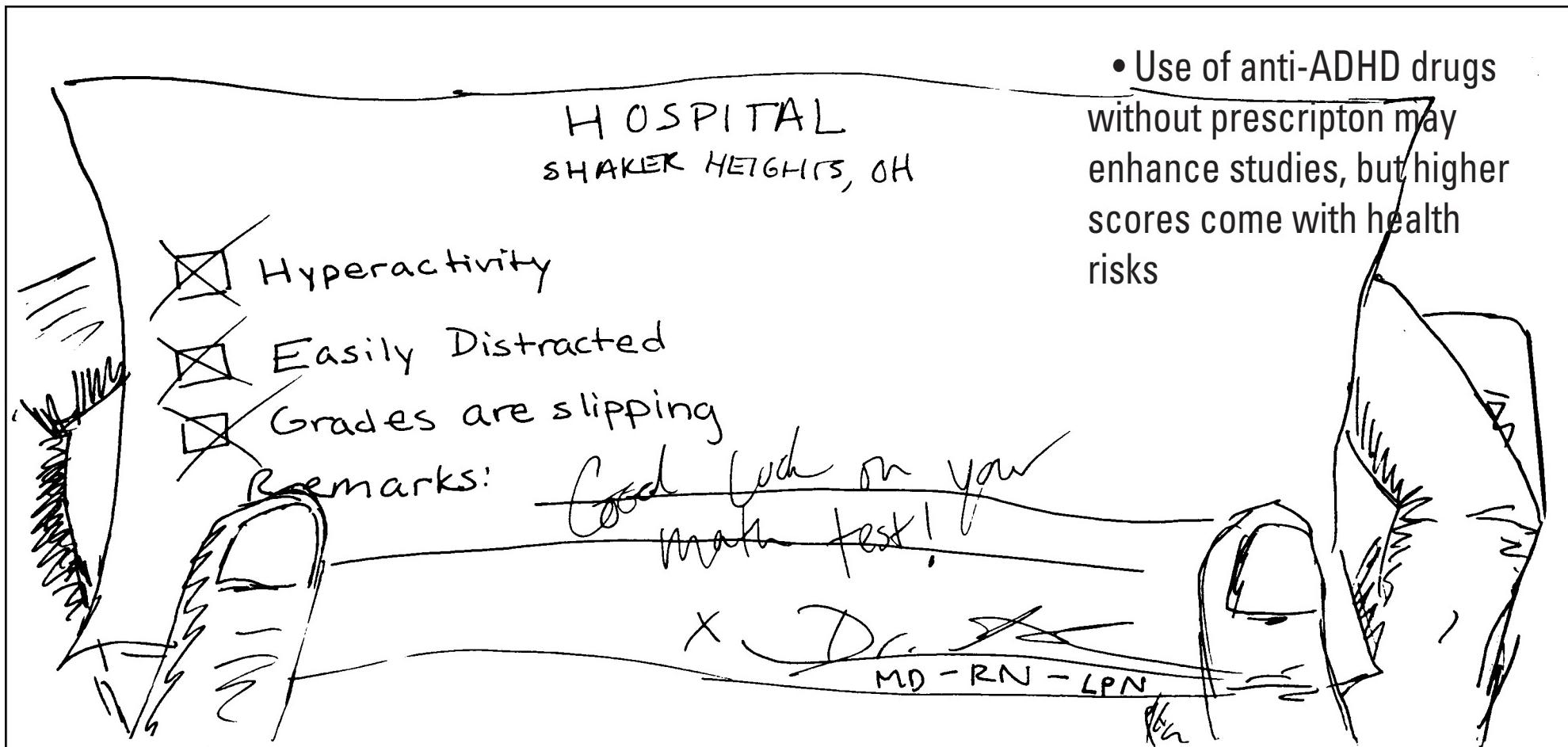
EDITOR IN CHIEF
VICTORIA FYDRYCH
RANTS ABOUT THE
DIFFICULTIES OF
GETTING THROUGH
THE HALLS: WALK-
ING SHOULD NOT BE
A CONTACT SPORT.

It's 8:04 a.m. I have approximately 60 seconds to get to first period on time. But I can't. Why? Because high school students don't understand how to walk. Walking isn't standing around, chatting with your friends and obnoxiously obstructing traffic. By this time in the school year, everyone knows where they are going. Don't awkwardly stand around; this is not Homecoming. I don't care about last night's exploits, or who some person in your math class is hooking up with, and neither does anyone else. So instead of loudly announcing your weekend plans to get drunk, try to put one foot in front of the other and walk to class. The hallway isn't the place to have a conversation. The hallway isn't the place to text your BFF -- if you're unable to walk and text at the same time. The hallway isn't the place for long hugs or elaborate handshakes, and it is not the place to explore intimacy with your significant other. The hallway is simply a lane of transportation from one class to another. Please, treat it as such.



VICTORIA
FYDRYCH

ATTENTION DEFICIT DILEMMA



- Use of anti-ADHD drugs without prescription may enhance studies, but higher scores come with health risks

BY RACHEL SHAW AND ILANA KRAMER
SHAKERSPEAKS EDITORS

Students without ADHD are reaching for drugs prescribed for the condition in an effort to improve their academic performance.

A 2005 University of Michigan study reported that nearly seven percent of both college and high school students, use Adderall for a non-medical purpose.

While students report that medicines used to treat ADHD such as Adderall or Ritalin increase test performance, they also jeopardize the user's health.

Adderall has replaced Ritalin as the most commonly used medication for treating ADHD. Ritalin's effects don't last as long as Adderall's and its side effects are harsher.

However, Adderall has plenty of its own side effects. Even for those who are clinically diagnosed, insomnia, headaches, dizziness, loss of appetite and weight loss are frequent effects.

While medications may help you study, the insomnia they cause the night before your big test certainly won't. Think through all of the consequences of your decision. If the medication causes you to stay up all night, you clearly won't do well on your test.

For obvious reasons, Adderall is a Schedule II controlled substance, meaning that it is considered to have a very high potential for abuse.

Reports of teenagers selling their prescribed Adderall to friends, an illegal action, have caused doctors to be hesitant when prescribing Adderall to teenagers.

Although not severe after taking regular, prescribed dosages, sudden withdrawal after Adderall abuse can result in fatigue and depression, quite the opposite of the original unfocused energy.

Less frequently, sudden withdrawal can lead to psychosis, a mental disorder including hallucinations and delusions.

Once again, this is the opposite of the desired effect.

There can be another alternative

"I can't focus."

Is there an app for that?

Not exactly. However, there is a legitimate medical excuse: Attention Deficit Disorder, or commonly known as, "Oh, she's so ADD."

In past years, my parents and I have toyed with the idea that I may have ADD. It would only make sense, seeing as the rest of my family has ADD. As the years passed, my grades evened out, and we assumed perhaps I had grown out of it, but the added pressures of sophomore year were enough to allow ADD-like symptoms to reappear. It was easier to blame these symptoms on a medical condition than it was to acknowledge the simple truth: I'm taking hard classes and I'm stressed, just like everyone else at Shaker.

If you are considering talking to your doctor, do not hesitate. But don't assume too quickly! ADD-like symptoms are not a one-way street. Your inability to focus may be a sign of anxiety, depression, even Seasonal Affective Disorder, which is unsurprisingly common in the sun-deprived city of Cleveland. It is important to be examined thoroughly. You don't want to be stuck on a medication that treats a condition you don't have.

In the mean-time, take some time to think about something other than school. Believe it or not, it helps tremendously. Go on a run, read a book, spend a little more time with your family. It makes sense that you might be having trouble focusing because you're simply burned-out. And if all else fails, you may end up going to class one day unprepared. The terribly clichéd moral of the story is, anything is possible. You could indeed suffer from ADD. But at the same time, you could indeed suffer fatigue from lack of sleep caused by too much homework.

When Adderall is misused, and a higher dosage than necessary is taken, your body builds a tolerance to the drug, and the dosage must increase in order to achieve the desired effects.

The addiction that begins is no different than an addiction to any other illicit drug.

The withdrawal symptoms are often severe enough that one will start using Adderall again to relieve them. Months ago, a little foresight might have been useful.

Additionally, Adderall abusers display behavioral effects such as increased aggression, irritability, personality changes, and hyperactivity.

If the purpose of taking Adderall in the first place was to concentrate, hyperactivity from abusing the drug is very counterproductive.

Ignoring the fact that taking prescription

drugs not prescribed to you is illegal, the plan to concentrate throughout a test just completely backfired.

The same University of Michigan study found that people who use psychostimulants, such as Adderall, abusively are five times more likely to drive drunk, seven times more likely to drink frequently, 10 times more likely to abuse marijuana, and over 20 times more likely to use cocaine.

The effects of Adderall abuse are similar to those of cocaine abuse, in that they both cause mood disturbances, irritability and restlessness, and lead to addiction.

If you were considering using Adderall without having a prescription, think about it for a second. Would you ever consider using cocaine to help you concentrate?



ADD VS. ADHD: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

- Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, although commonly pegged as separate issues, actually are the same.

- What is commonly referred to as ADD is clinically known as ADHD. ADHD has many sub-varieties, including inattentive ADD and over-focused ADD.

- Dr. Thomas Frazier of the Cleveland Clinic explained that ADD is no longer a term that is in use diagnostically, considering the actual disorder is ADHD.

- Any form of ADHD can be treated with a psychostimulant, which is a medication with anti-depressants.

- Because they are all treated in the same way, medically speaking, there is no need for a distinction between ADD and ADHD.

Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite



CLASS OF 2010 PETITIONS FOR NEW DESIGN

Two hundred and three seniors signed a petition demanding an alternative sweats design because they claimed the font was difficult to read and the graphic was unsatisfactory. The petition, initiated by Torhi Beidman Dec. 7, did not include suggestions to replace the design by Brandon Mercer. At the senior meeting Dec. 9, senior adviser Jewels Rossi said, "Unless you have a solution, a better suggestion or a suggestion at all, you cannot complain." According to Rossi, the senior class had four weeks to submit designs. Only three were received. Student Council chose Mercer's design without knowing the artist to avoid bias. Rossi also said that anyone who has ordered sweats will receive their money back until a new design has been decided upon.

MIRIAM CHELIMSKY



Everyone screamed because it made a really loud sound, like fireworks.

Molly Sords
junior

STUDENTS HANDLE FIERY EXPERIMENTS

- Sometimes science labs prove to be more exciting than intended

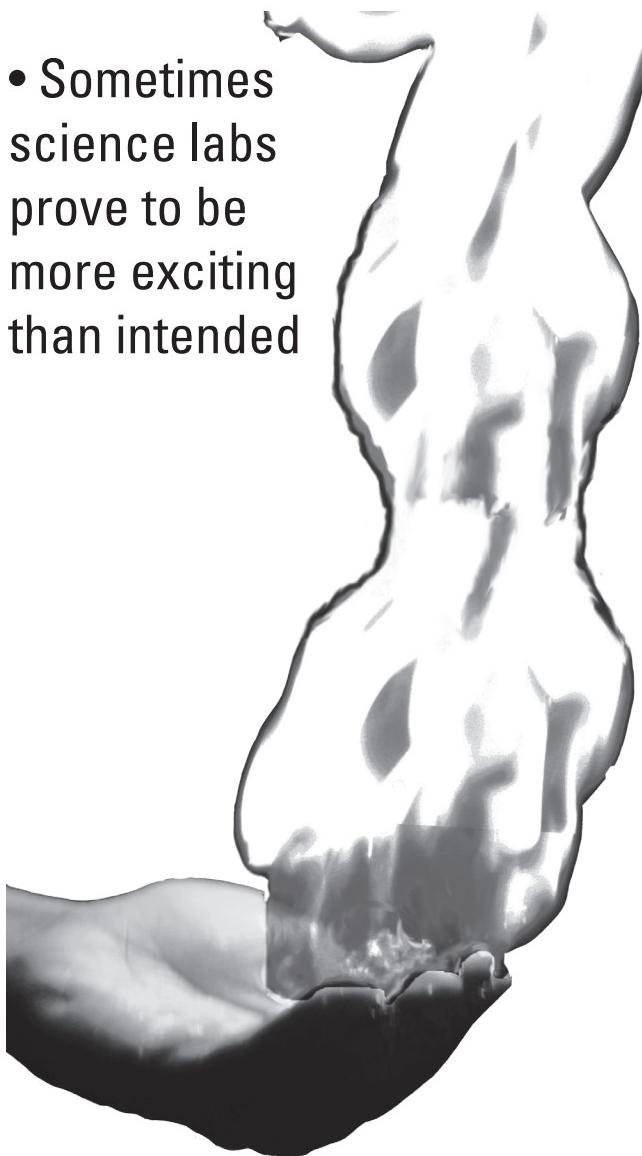


Photo Illustration by Brandon Mercer

BY VICTORIA FYDRYCH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"He said it was going to be the most exciting day of chemistry this year."

Junior Molly Sords had no idea just how accurately science teacher Travis Cox had predicted the day's outcome.

A demo gone wrong Dec. 2 showered Cox's 6/7 period with glass and chemicals when a beaker exploded.

"Glass and acid went everywhere," Sords said. The experiment was performed successfully in period 1, as well as in all previous demos; this was the first time it had malfunctioned.

The beaker, filled with zinc and hydrochloric acid, exploded when a flame was sucked inside the sealed container. Junior Natalie Vicchio, who was asleep in the front row, was awakened when the experiment soured.

"There was a really big popping noise; I sat up and I felt something swipe across my face. I don't know if it was glass but I didn't get hurt," Vicchio said.

The rest of the class reacted quickly. "Everyone screamed because it made a really loud sound, like fireworks," Sords said.

Immediately after the explosion, Cox ordered the entire class to wash their hands in case they had been contaminated with acid.

Glass was scattered throughout the room, not only reaching most of the room, but also causing some damage. "There was this really long, really pointy piece [of glass] that was literally stuck in the projection screen," Vicchio said.

"He told us to be really careful about the glass; he was the only one that picked it up," Sords said. The clean-up took approximately 10 minutes.

Sords, although in the second row, was hit with a piece of glass, which cut her finger. "I put a Band-Aid on it, but it bled through, so then I went to the nurse."

Cox declined to comment for this story.

Despite the excitement caused by the experiment, class proceeded as usual. In the remaining time, Cox performed other demos, such as the one pictured left, which

allowed students to hold fire. Student volunteers used a mixture including common dishwasher soap to coat their hands. Cox then used a match to set the hands on fire.

The flame lasted for approximately three seconds, after which students cleaned their hands.

According to biology teacher John Moore, labs often have glitches. "Labs turn out drastically wrong all the time -- but it's the results that aren't desirable, not the safety," Moore stated in an e-mail interview.

Cox's previous demos of the experiments had gone off without a hitch. Moore had no such luck.

Moore prompted a school-wide evacuation during second period Nov. 30 while preparing a whoosh bottle demo. The experiment consisted of lighting ethyl alcohol in a container, causing a small flame to flare. However, the demo was performed directly beneath a smoke detector, unbeknownst to Moore.

"The instant pulse of heat from the bottle triggered the alarm, and the rest is

history," Moore stated.

According to Moore, experiments that present low risk don't have to be tested beforehand.

"In these situations, you prep the lab to be as safe as possible and let it play out," Moore stated. Testing demos may at times spoil the learning experience for both student and teacher.

"Some of the best labs are those that are inquiry-based in which the outcome is unknown."

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Shaker Heights Teachers' Association



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Shaker's Youth



Gabe White • The Shakerite
SENIOR STEVEN COON focuses intensely on his restocking responsibilities at Heinen's at Shaker Town Centre. After filling out an application online in October, Coon was hired one week later.

BREAKING INTO THE JOB MARKET

- Teen unemployment tops 26 percent, but youth does have its advantages

BY WHITNEY LIVINGSTON
STAFF REPORTER

When economic times are good, students who want to work have little trouble finding businesses seeking temporary workers.

However, with a 10.2 percent national unemployment rate and a 27.6 percent teen unemployment rate, students have found themselves applying for jobs for months without success.

Senior Julianne Bell is one of those job seekers. "I've been applying for jobs since I turned 16," she said. Bell said she is willing to work weekends and after school and has applied to Target, Jo Ann Fabrics, Applebee's, Fresh Market and Walgreen's with no luck.

Other students, however, had an easier time finding a job. Senior Steven Coon applied online for a job at Heinen's and was called for an interview within one

week. "The application is online and it only takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. I was hired about two and a half months ago and I work about 20 to 25 hours per week." As challenging as the recession job market can be for teens to break into, there is help in Shaker for students looking to improve their job-seeking skills.

Debra Hegler, president of the Shaker Heights Chamber of Commerce, teaches a course to teens seeking jobs on the do's and don'ts when applying. Among the topics covered are what to wear to an interview, what questions to ask and proper introductions.

Hegler says students should be able to answer six questions: What benefit do you bring to the employer? Why it's better to hire you than leave you for the competition? What skills can you bring to the employer? Where do you see yourself in five years? Tell me a little about yourself. What are your strengths/weaknesses?

During a phone interview, Hegler said "weaknesses can be that you never want to see a project fail, that you are always eager to get involved...that you are loyal to your project and your employer. A weakness can be determination."

Hegler also says that students do have a natural advantage over adults. "Adults are willing to take jobs that teens have traditionally taken, but employers are willing to take teens because they are more affordable."

Hegler says fatal moves when interviewing can be arriving late and dressing improperly. Freshman Marquisc Dudley attended of Hegler's four-part course, said, "I think that I learned to dress better, present myself in a better way."

Hegler will have the same course this spring and suggests, "Take my workshops, apply everywhere, go prepared, dress professionally and the best way to get a job, follow up."

FLEEING GRAVITY'S PULL



Steve Boxall • www.gozerog.com

SCIENCE TEACHER TRAVIS COX experienced zero gravity Sept. 26 through Zero G flights. He experienced a sensation akin to descending from the top of a roller coaster. "It's a very uncontrollable feeling and very hard to orient yourself, but it was really awesome. By the end I got really nauseous and was nicknamed 'vomit comet,'" Cox said.

Overbeke's
School of Driving

"Driving class is cool."

"I had a lot of fun and learned at the same time!"

"Mr. Overbeke, this class was A-OK!" "This course was amazing!"

"I looked forward to coming to class!"

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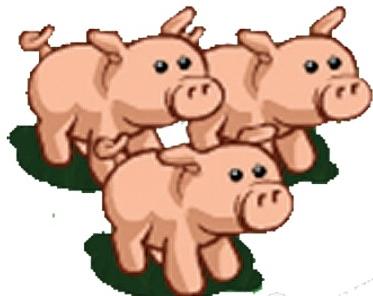
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FAKE FARMS DRIVE SHAKER STUDENTS HOG WILD

- Facebook application FarmVille reaches the computers of millions

BY ELLEN HOLCOMB
THE BEAT EDITOR



This number indicates your XP (experience points), which determines your level. Click the speech bubble to leave messages on your friends' farms.

Enter a message.

The high school is full of farmers. According to The New York Times, more than 62 million people have signed up to play FarmVille since its release in June. Each day, 22 million people log on to FarmVille to harvest their virtual crops and milk their digital cows. A number of them are Shaker students. On this free game, players gather crops, grow trees, raise livestock and decorate their farms to increase their experience up to level 70. Unlike most online games, FarmVille is not competitive; there are no leader boards, and there is no way to win the game. Each new level unlocks new crops. FarmVille farmers must invest carefully in seeds, all with different starting costs, harvesting times and rates of return, if they hope to turn a profit. Whether planting artichokes, grapes, watermelons or rice, FarmVille players are eager to harvest their crops. "My favorite crops to plant are peas, because they take a day to grow, and they are the only crop in the game that gives three experience points per plant," said junior Adam Cohen, who is at level 39. With plants that mature in days and no droughts or floods to contend with, it remains to be seen if FarmVille's popularity will cultivate a new generation of farmers. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2007 there were a mere 1.9 million farmers in the United States. Mark Brugmann, owner of Brugmann Farms in Mantua, Ohio, is one of them. "I have never played FarmVille, but my kids have messed around with it," Brugmann said. "Actual farming is a bit different, but it is the same general idea." For 15 coins, players can buy one plot of soybeans that harvest for 63 coins in 1 day, a profit margin of more than 300 percent. According to Brugmann, real soybeans are not quite so quick – or profitable. "It takes approximately four months for soybeans to grow, and they cost about \$300 per acre, and the return on that is about \$40 per acre," Brugmann said. In the social aspect of FarmVille, players can request other farmers as neighbors and send them free gifts such as animals, trees or decorations. "I like to receive trees. I don't really care what kind," said junior Ryan Walling, who is on level 38. The best thing about FarmVille isn't expanding the farm, it's showing everyone your friends that you did. "I think it is so addicting because it is pretty simple to play, and doesn't require you to do that much, but you still feel accomplished when you earn coins or move up a level," Cohen said. "I play because I find it fun, and my friend Ryan Walling and I have been competing to see who can gain more experience points, and it's not like I'm [going to] let him win."

Fuel can only be bought with Farm Dollars. When you use it all up, it automatically renews over time.

With the control panel, you can shop for seeds, plow land, delete objects, zoom in and out, change to fullscreen, view gifts in your gift basket and view awards you've won.

I usually play for about 20-30 minutes every day.

"My favorite crops to plant are peas. They give you the most experience and most money for each plant."

"If you give me two pieces of land, I will make it into a farming fortress."

Adam 40 Elana 25 Ryan 38 Lukun 20 Stephen 17 Maya 21

Add Neighbor

Add Neighbor

146507 24248 124432 10926 6500 12255

Market

One of my friends told me about [Farmville]; the next day I stayed home sick and I decided to try it.

Farmville is addicting mainly because it provides people with an escape...from the moment or their life.

I used to check [Farmville] obsessively...but now I have found that I am too busy to check it that often.

FIRE MARSHALL RULES WHAT GOES UP, MUST MOVE BACK

Becoming familiar with the set is key to any successful production. Unfortunately for the "Much Ado about Nothing" company, that was not an option. On Dec. 2, the day of the company's first performance, the Shaker Heights fire marshal nearly brought the fall production to a halt when he told Stagecraft teacher Chuck Tisdale that the set didn't meet fire regulations. As a result, Tisdale and a few helpers were forced to move the set back in a matter of hours. The move involved ladders, power tools and a lot of hustle and forced revision of everything from lighting to movements actors had been rehearsing for the past two months.

BRANDON PATTERSON



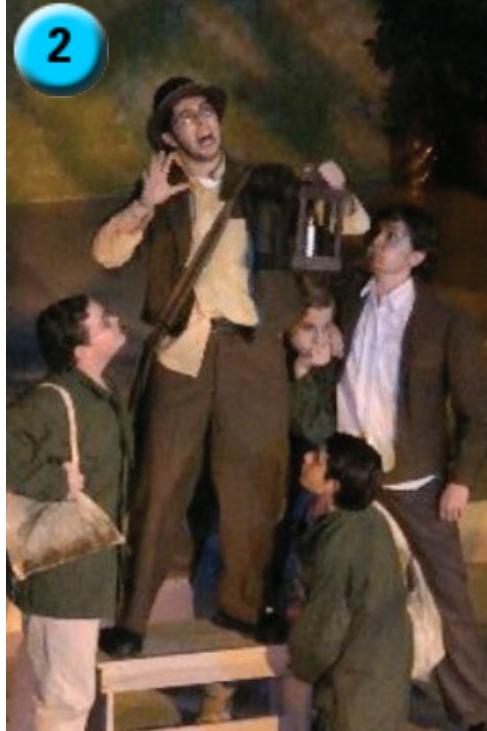
Brandon Patterson • The Shakerite

'NOTHING' BETTER: A CLOSER LOOK AT 5 SCENES WE LOVED

- 'Much Ado about Nothing,' set in Havana, Cuba, heated up the stage with super saucy scenes

BY BRANDON PATTERSON
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

DOGBERRY (ROB GLEISSEY), who is a joke of a detective, interrogates Borrachio (Charlie Merriam) and Conrade (Martin Troxel) because they were involved in Hero's now-infamous sex scandal before being caught by his non-courageous watchmen. As he questions the two gentlemen, he makes a complete fool out of himself by using huge words that even Webster wouldn't know. This is a key moment because two of the villains reveal the evil plot of their sketchy master, Don John (Brandon Patterson). This scene accelerated the play, because it reminded the audience that it was a comedy. Gleisser was the definition of funny. The way that his little watchmen followed him around just added to the show and made the scene easier to follow. The movements he made and delivery resurrected this play after a series of some bombed scenes. It also showed the intense training on blocking and movement by Director & Co-Producer Christine McBurney and Movement Coordinator Wendy Lynne.



Allie Levin • The Shakerite



Allie Levin • The Shakerite

THE HOST LEONARDO (Ian Vitkus), throws a huge party and invites all of the royal guests. All of the various love affairs become apparent at this event. Benedick (David Wemer), a good friend of the prince, and Beatrice, the niece of Leonato, try hard not to show their feelings for each other, but they are, nonetheless, obvious. This all takes place while guests dance a seductive cha-cha. Although it was at times difficult to hear the dialogue, the scene was still spectacular. The cha-cha was impressive and drew notable responses from parents, who were probably thrilled to witness a positive alternative to kids' typical dance styles. The costume designers' work shone brightly in this scene with the males sporting vibrant tropical shirts and the females flowing, flowery dresses.



THE ENTHUSIASTIC BRIDE Hero (Allegra Verlezza) is almost shocked to death when her husband-to-be, Claudio (Jonah Weinstein), shames her at their own horrific wedding. He accuses her of infidelity and rejects her in front of his friend, the Prince, and the other guests. Hero denies wrongdoing, but Claudio doesn't want to hear it. They all depart, leaving Hero and company distraught and confused. The actors really brought this scene to life; it made everyone in the audience want to get on the stage and interact. Verlezza's pain rippled through everyone. Each character's responses were right-on and realistic. But one response in particular shocked the audience, that of Jonah Weinstein as Claudio. Weinstein, whose daily demeanor is calm and non-threatening, assaulted his Hero so convincingly that the audience gasped in shock.



Allie Levin • The Shakerite



Allie Levin • The Shakerite

THE SWEET AND INNOCENT Hero becomes the devilish matchmaker. She summons her friends, Margrette and Ursula, and convinces them to persuade Hero's cousin, Beatrice, that her arch enemy is madly in love with her. As Beatrice tries to sneak around the house to eavesdrop on their conversation, Hero and Ursula (Aleksa Kaups) continue to make up hilarious "facts" about Beatrice's soon to be lover. Beatrice falls for their lies and instantly falls in love with Benedick and in a soliloquy expresses her feelings. The characters struck the right comic notes. The trio kept the audience curious about what lie was going to be told next and how Hero would respond to it. The actors' perfect timing and movement maintained the pace and filled in where dialogue fell short.

THE PLAY ENDS with a festive double wedding, after it is revealed that Hero is innocent and the evil villain, Don John, sabotaged Hero's reputation. Hero is reunited with her fiancé, Count Claudio. Both couples have their first dances and show their love and affection for one another. The play concluded with a sensational salsa that led to a curtain call. The choreography provided a fantastic finish, and the dance underscored the cast's unity. The curtain call was quick, and the actors showed their appreciation of their loyal audience. The feeling was mutual; the Saturday night audience gave a standing ovation.

MONKEYING AROUND

- Sophomore Matthew Reesing releases energy by dancing every day at 2:33 p.m.



BY KATIE INGLIS
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Students in math teacher Lori White's 10th period class are on the edge of their seats 25 minutes before the 2:58 bell rings, but they aren't panting in anticipation for the end of school.

Mrs. White's 10th period class is waiting for a classmate's daily 2:33 p.m. outburst.

Starting with some arm flapping, and maybe one or two jumps, sophomore Matt Reesing shakes sporadically around the back of the classroom. He twists and wiggles, sometimes he hops, or even jiggles, all while solving algebra problems.

Reesing is a self-described attention addict, which may explain why he interrupts Algebra II every day to dance like a monkey.

"Monkey Time is the brainchild of Matt Reesing," sophomore Terry Conlon said.

Monkey Time's origins are purely random.

"In 10th period math class, especially on Fridays, we tend to go off on tangents in terms of discussions," White stated in an e-mail interview. "One Friday, Matt mentioned that he thought it would be a good idea if I got a live monkey and kept it in a cage in the front of the room, covered of course. Then at a prescribed time -- 2:33 -- I would remove the cover, and we could all enjoy playing with the monkey for a few minutes."

Live monkeys being out of the question for obvious reasons, Reesing had to compromise.

"First off [Mrs. White] had a big empty space on her wall, so I said we should put monkeys on the wall and dance with

them. Slowly it evolved from monkeys in a cage on a wall to dancing," he said.

Monkey Time debuted at 2:33 p.m. one day in September (no students recall the precise date).

Why did Reesing choose 2:33?

"There is no point...I looked up at the clock and it was 2:33."

"It's basically when Matt gets up, moves to the back of the room and begins to dance and monkey around. Sometimes he'll throw a little jump or spazztastic move in the mix," classmate Logan Davis said.

Throughout the next four months, Reesing's moves certainly weren't repetitive.

"The class has always loved it. Matt changes up his 'dance' daily and it's always hilarious," Conlon said.

White continues to teach every day at 2:33 p.m. even as Reesing monkeys around the room.

"At first Mrs. White would try to resist it, but everyone loved it, and Matt was persistent so she let it go. Now since we're not that distracted by it, she doesn't blink an eye when it happens," Davis said.

Monkey Time is a way for Reesing to release energy as well. "Initially it was a distraction, but it seemed to help get some of the energy out of Matt's system. He seems to be able to focus better after monkey time and, as long as it is not too distracting for the other students, I can live with it," White stated.

"I enjoy the attention but I just love to dance. I like to go crazy. I was just raised that way...I'd rather make other people happy than myself," Reesing said.

Among others, Davis certainly receives an impact from Monkey Time. "Sometimes I'll catch Matt out of the corner of my eye while we're taking notes, and I can't help but laugh. Classes can set such a serious tone sometimes. Monkey time and just Matt himself can kind of release some of that stress... It's unique to Matt; no one else can do it."

FACULTY FACE COSTUMED IMPOSTERS

- Students impersonate teachers for Halloween

BY GRACIE GERHART
STAFF REPORTER

They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery; on Halloween, sophomore Spencer Seballos and junior Matthew Neary took that statement literally.

Seballos dressed up as Physical Science teacher Sharron Sankovich. He donned a holiday sweater, brown patterned skirt, gray wig, hair clips and tennis shoes and accessorized his costume with a composition book like the ones Sankovich's students use daily.

Neary imitated Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger by wearing a white button-down shirt, khaki pants and a bald cap. He also carried a walkie-talkie, a knock-off of the radios carried by security staff, into which he said, "Frank, come in. Come in, Frank." The idea came to Neary as soon as he purchased the white shirt for a different purpose that it would be the perfect costume for the next Halloween.

Neary said his costume was generally well received. "I think everybody, with perhaps one exception, really liked it," he said.

Seballos also said he garnered universal approval.

"People thought it was hilarious, including staff members who will remain unnamed," he said.

Seballos and Neary said they meant no harm and did not intend to offend those who inspired them.

"Frankly, I just wanted to be Frank," Neary said.

Seballos said his look "wasn't malicious, just having a funny costume." Asked if he had considered how Sankovich would react, he admitted he hadn't.

"I wasn't sure if I'd see her or not. It's one of those things where you don't think about it until later," he said.

Seballos did encounter Sankovich when he walked into her classroom during the transition time between two classes. "She didn't realize it was me for the first 15 seconds, then once she realized it was, she said, 'Hey! I don't look like that!' and ushered me out of the classroom."

Sankovich confirmed that she at first didn't catch the joke.

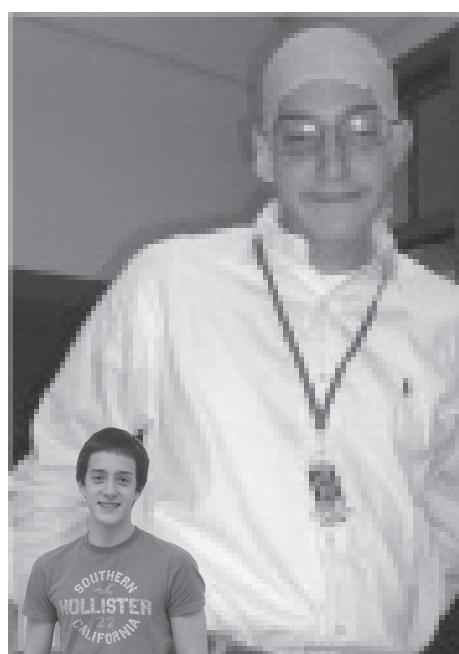
"I didn't even recognize who he was supposed to be dressed as when I saw him," she said. "It wasn't until I saw his name tag that said 'Sankovich' that I realized he was supposed to be me."

Neary said he never saw Wessinger during the day, and there were no repercussions afterward.

Sankovich remained neutral on whether imitation was indeed the sincerest form of flattery.

"I didn't really have any reaction; all that I really said was that I did not look like that," Sankovich said.

"But I guess if it were to be done again, I'd say watch the details."



NEARY AND SEBALLOS dressed as Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger and science teacher Sharron Sankovich, respectively. Neither student reported negative consequences.

// Frankly, I just wanted to be Frank.

Matthew Neary
junior

HOOP TEAMS TIP OFF SEASON WITH NEW LEADERS

- Danny Young, long an assistant for Bob Wonson, assumes head coaching duties for men's basketball

BY TOM O'NEILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Although new boys basketball coach Danny Young has never patrolled the sidelines for an entire season, he is certainly not short on basketball experience.

After staring at Buchtel High School in Akron, Young went on to leave his mark at Hiram College in Ohio. The shooting guard lit up the stat sheet from 1988 to 1992 and finished as the Terrier's sixth all-time leading scorer.

Young began his coaching career under former Head Coach Bob Wonson, who died last March. Young served on Wonson's staff for 17 years, two as associate head coach.

Young certainly has big shoes to fill.

"Coach Wonson built this gym. He took over when the team was in dire straits and built it into a respectable program," Young said.

Despite having a new coach, the program's philosophies remain consistent. During his 17 years on Wonson's staff, the most pertinent lessons Young learned were how to handle yourself off the court.

"He taught me professionalism, how to treat players and just how to do things the right way," Young said.

Young hopes to also apply many of Wonson's on-the-court strategies.

On defense, Young wants his teams to be aggressive, and he preaches three concepts: pressure, deny and help.

Young hopes his teams will be able to use their athleticism to speed up the game and force opponents into costly mistakes.

In addition to Young's three key philosophies, he also hopes to continue to stress the things that made Wonson's teams so formidable.

"He really focused on rebounding, offensive rebounding specifically. Offensive rebounds mean more offensive possessions," Young said.

Other than the extra possessions, Young hopes his teams will buy into the team-first mentality that has made Shaker teams so successful in the past.



Tom O'Neill • The Shakerite

NEW MENS BASKETBALL coach Danny Young, center in black, explains the Raider's defensive philosophy to the players during a December practice. Young expects his teams to play tough, aggressive defense centered around pressure and denial.

"It really isn't important who gets the credit. We need to move the ball, and we really need all the players to buy into the team concept," he said.

While Young has never put these strategies into motion in boys' high school basketball, he gained invaluable experience while working on the national AAU girls team Sports City U.

During his four years with Sports City U, Young worked with one of the best girls' basketball minds in all of Ohio, Tom Jenkins.

Jenkins taught Young the intricacies and importance of evaluating opponents.

"He is really the most respected name in girls' basketball statewide in terms of scouting," Young said.

With all the changes in the leadership of the program, it would not be surprising if players needed time to adjust.

Senior center Jean Freeman, however, does not think

any trial period will be needed.

"It has been a pretty smooth transition for us. There haven't really been any major changes," Freeman said.

Young credits his coaching staff for making the transition possible. Many of the coaches served under Wonson previously, and one, former Cleveland Heights coach Jim Cappelletti, has even coached against Wonson.

In their first game, Shaker welcomed perennial powerhouse Toledo St. John's Jesuit. Although the Raiders lost, Young knows the tough early season games will be crucial when faced with tough Lake Erie League contests.

"We had a chance to win the game at the end, and that is all you can really ask for," said Young, who hopes an experienced coaching staff and the tough non-league tests will lead to a successful season nine years since the Raiders' visit to the final four.

by
the

s

**Danny Young
Credentials**

17

Years spent on former head coach Bob Wonson's coaching staff

6

Place on the Hiram College all-time scoring list where Young started at shooting guard until 1992

Compiled by Tom O'Neill

CORENO TAKING AIM AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- New women's basketball coach, Mike Coreno, excited to meet, exceed challenges at Shaker

BY TOM O'NEILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

If you had told Michael Coreno in high school he would grow up to be a basketball coach, he would have laughed at you. But after catching the coaching bug when he got involved with a team in a Catholic school league, Coreno is now poised to lead the talented Raider squad for years to come.



Coreno to varsity head coach. Coreno has taken over the women's team after Athletic Director Don Readance, a new father, stepped down.

During one of his early high school stops, at Villa

Angela St. Joseph, Coreno spent time under then head coach Mark Chicone, the man Coreno says he learned the most from. "Coach Chicone took a program from 0-20 and then eventually to a state championship," Coreno said. Coreno hopes to mirror Chicone's success by modeling his own coaching style after the legendary coach. "He really stressed the team concept, and he had a work ethic like no other," Coreno said.

Coreno knows that work ethic and commitment will be critical if Shaker wants to be the second Coreno-coached team to go to the state semi-finals; his Chanel squad qualified in 2001. "I always tell them whatever it takes. If you want to play basketball 10 hours a day, I will be here to unlock the gym," he said.

Coreno is certainly thankful that Shaker's women's basketball team will not be much of a fixer-upper as previous teams he's coached. "I knew Coach Readance ran a tight ship. It has made the transition very easy for me," he said. Coreno hopes to expand on the foun-

dation that Readance established. He expects this year the season will be short and sweet. "I think you have to have that mindset, though," Coreno said. "I feel like there is no real reason to suit up unless you are going for a state championship."

Despite his intense focus on winning, Coreno realizes there is more to high school basketball than just what happens on the court. In fact, he encourages his students to enter college, pointing to grants and scholarships as a benefit of playing basketball. "I tell them that the opportunities are endless if you want to put in the work," he said.

Coreno hopes his players will put in the work this season in order to reach the state championship. He acknowledges, however, that to be successful, they will need to start locally with a Lake Erie League Championship. Thanks to a talented roster and experienced coaching staff, the Raiders may be ready for a late-season run.

by
the

s

**Mike Coreno
Credentials**

18

Ranking of the girls team in the latest Plain Dealer Northeast Ohio rankings

1

State Semi-Final appearances by Coreno coached teams, Chanel in 2001.

Compiled by Tom O'Neill

GO, FIGHT . . . BRAWL?

- Professional and collegiate athletes' aggression sets wrong example for high school players

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Coaches dread them. Fans love them. And even though they can carry a heavy cost, players engage in them anyway.

From the big leagues to high schools, brawls can happen at any time, in any sport. And between ESPN and YouTube, these examples of unsportsmanlike conduct are preserved forever and viewed repeatedly.

A flagrant example occurred Oct. 30 when Brush visited Garfield Heights for a football game. The Brush Arcs bounced back from a 21-0 first quarter blowout to trail Garfield, 21-14. With 56 seconds left in the first half, Brush senior defensive end Ovunda Onunwor sacked Garfield junior quarterback Shaq Washington. Washington responded with a punch of his own, and in a moment, benches cleared and the fight was on.

Video of the brawl made the Cleveland TV news.

Shaker athletes are not immune to such conflicts. The men's soccer team engaged in a bench-clearing brawl in 2007. With one minute to go, a regular season game for the Raiders against Berea High School turned violent.

Berea's forward refused to hand the ball to defender Neil Nash when the Raiders were awarded a free kick. "I was so pissed when he did that. It was foolish," Nash said.

Nash picked up the Berea player and slammed him to the ground. Immediately following the slam, both team's benches cleared and the chaos began. The brawl ended with five red cards, three yellow cards and a tie game.

"The momentum was in our favor, and we had a chance to take the lead. When he kicked the ball away,



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

it was the last straw," Nash said. "I let my temper get the best of me and I slammed him."

With adolescent athletes competing feverishly, it is almost inevitable that a brawl will happen sooner or later. Men's soccer coach Nader Soliman, however, singled out the actions of older athletes for blame.

"If high school athletes are ever going to stop fighting, it has to start in the college and professional leagues," Soliman said.

In the 2009 World Series, Boston Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis charged the mound after Detroit Tigers pitcher Rick Porcello hit him with a pitch. Youkilis responded by throwing his helmet at Porcello and then tackling him. Following the tackle, both the Red Sox and Tigers' bullpens and benches ran to the fight. Both Porcello and Youkilis were

given fines and handed five-game suspensions.

During the Brush/Garfield Heights fight, words were exchanged, followed by pushing and shoving. Benches cleared, turning the game into an all-out brawl in which some players swung their helmets at others' heads. "Our bench cleared, then theirs. It all happened so fast," Arcs senior quarterback Jake Turner said in a Facebook interview.

"Brawls are very hard to avoid. Everyone gets so into the game, sometimes people's emotions get the best of them," Onunwor said.

According to Soliman, professional athletes are responsible for that sense of inevitability.

He said, "If the stars that our players idolize are beating each other, then the high school players will follow their lead."

WINTER SPORTS ARE ON: 4 PLAYERS TO WATCH



Gigi Peck
sophomore

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

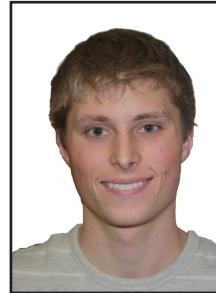
- Q.** Why do you play basketball?
A. I play because my older brother encouraged me to.
Q. What do you look forward to most this season?
A. I look forward to just playing with the team, and then a state championship.
Q. What do you think are your biggest strengths and weakness this year?
A. My biggest strengths are shooting, and my weakness I would have to say is my right hand.
Q. How did you get to be so good?
A. Haha, my brother helped me a lot.



Otis Barrow
junior

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Q.** Why do you play basketball?
A. I play because I was brought up on it; it is the only thing I really know how to do.
Q. What do you look forward to most this season?
A. I think it would have to be winning the LEL.
Q. What do you think are the teams biggest strengths and weakness this year?
A. Strengths would have to be our offense, shooting and rebounding. We are also a strong passing team. The team's attitude is a weakness we want to fix.



Tim Dixon
senior

SWIMMING

- Q.** Why do you swim?
A. I have always loved swimming since I was a little kid.
Q. What do you look forward to most this season?
A. The team looks really good, I am looking forward to states.
Q. What do you think are your biggest strengths and weakness this year?
A. Strengths would have to be everyone's talent and the support of the seniors. Honestly, we don't have a weakness the only potential issue is that we don't believe in ourselves.



Aaron Goodman
junior

HOCKEY

- Q.** Why do you play hockey?
A. I am the first one in my family to play, and it was just something new to try. I have been playing since I was 4; you have to learn how to skate that young and then, when you are 4 or 5, you can start playing hockey.
Q. What do you look forward to most this season?
A. Making the Baron Cup; I think the team has a chance to make it this year.
Q. What do you think are your biggest strengths and weaknesses this year?
A. We have a good offense; however, we lost three defensemen who were seniors last year, and we have a young goalie.

Compiled by Julia Celeste, Emma Bresnahan and Brandon Patterson

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FIRE RAIDERS PLAYING AT DISNEY NATIONALS

The varsity football team will be a force to reckon with – 5 years in the future. After beating two teams from California and Hawaii, the Shaker Fire Raiders, a junior football team consisting of kids 9 to 11 years old, will play in the national championship game in the Pop Warner Super Bowl at Disney World. They nearly missed the opportunity to go to Florida because they lacked the funds for transportation and hotels, but they were able to go thanks to donations from Shaker residents, community leaders, the Cleveland Browns Foundation, and even Browns players themselves.

IAN ROUND



Freed by the Frisbee mindset

Everyone who cares about sports could learn a lot from Ultimate Frisbee.

With violence, steroids, rants at referees and the like becoming increasingly prevalent, competition seems to be making people lose sight of the fact that sports are not life and death issues.

The Frisbee mindset is different from other sports: it's competitive, but winning isn't everything. In fact, it's pretty unimportant.

Shaker's Ultimate Frisbee team won the Spirit Award at Huckoween, the Halloween weekend tournament in Cincinnati. In addition to the traditional first and second place awards, the tournament coordinator offered a spirit award. Teams graded each other on a spirit scale of 0-5 after each game, and we won.

Winning the tournament would have been nice, but we weren't going to sacrifice fun for victory.

When the other teams scored, we congratulated them. The winning team got the typical reward, but they didn't appreciate the friendly atmosphere of the game.

On the first day of Huckoween (named after the holiday and a huck, Frisbee's Hail Mary pass), all the players were mixed up into different teams. Teams were reunited the second day. After playing a few games competitively and seriously together, we ceased to care.

During a game against tournament host Sycamore High School, we waited for one disc to land and then dove for it. When I had the Frisbee, the defender jokingly jumped up and down, flapping his arms much too close to me. What better to do, in the heat of competition, than give him a hug? I doubt this will happen any time soon in the NBA. Although typical Frisbee games are played to 15, we agreed the final score would be a 1761-1761 tie.

Not that I shun fierce competition; I embrace it during baseball season, but I need a break. In baseball, I don't care how the other team feels, but I'll hug all of my Frisbee competitors after – or even during – the game. Although college and club teams are much more intense, there are no Mentor-caliber rivalries in high school Frisbee. In baseball, winning is more important than befriending strangers, but in Frisbee, strangers are your friends simply because they play Frisbee. I want to play hard and win in both sports. While I'm angry and frustrated after losing in baseball, sometimes I don't even know the final score in Frisbee games.

Huckoween helped keep athletics in perspective. There were no maniacal tirades at officials, because, well, Frisbee is self-officiated. Maybe athletes such as tennis pro Serena Williams, who threatened to shove the ball down an official's throat after a bad call, should spend next halloween in Cincinnati playing Frisbee.



Ian
Round

Row, Row, Row Your Boat



“It’s going to be weird . . . I feel like we’re leaving them behind.”

Allie Levin • The Shakerite

SENIORS HATTIE GEMERCHAK (right) and Cara Murphy (left) row in practice on the Cuyahoga River. They have gone to Nationals each of the past three years rowing in a double.

• Despite 58 medals between them and 3 trips to nationals together, seniors Hattie Gemerchak and Cara Murphy feel crew doesn't get respect it's owed

BY GRAHAM FINE
STAFF REPORTER

Rowing is a hardcore sport – and anyone who thinks otherwise can say it to Hattie Gemerchak and Cara Murphy's faces. Gemerchak and Murphy are the first rowers from Shaker to compete at the national level, this year competing in the Scholastic Rowing Association of America Nationals. As co-captains of the crew team, along with senior Katie Hornick, they are also Shaker's main representatives for their sport.

Neither feels rowing gets the respect it deserves. "We are a sport! . . . We work hard year round and we don't get recognition as we should," Gemerchak said.

Murphy also feels crew is disrespected. "Stop hatin' on the crew team," she said.

Gemerchak and Murphy came in fourth place at this year's nationals in a double (a smaller boat with two rowers, each with two oars) in their third straight appearance at nationals. They finished second at the Scholastic Nationals their sophomore year and fourth their junior year. They also rowed in the Head of the Charles in Boston, one of the nation's largest rowing competitions featuring rowers of all ages and from multiple countries. Gemerchak and Murphy placed 14th out of 30 in Boston. Gemerchak has won 28 medals in her career, and Murphy has won 30.

The two are very modest given their accomplishments. "Cara and Hattie don't talk about how good they are unless you ask them. I was on a team with both of them for about a year before I realized they were competing at the national level," junior Ilana Polster stated in a Facebook interview.

According to crew coach Sharon Romilly, Gemerchak and Murphy have the top ergometer (rowing machine) scores for their weight class at Shaker.

Gemerchak and Murphy have dedicated their senior year to the sport. Both athletes find crew dominating their free time with practice every day and a regatta every weekend.

Despite the commitment, both Gemerchak and Murphy believe their lives would be boring and empty without crew.

"We wouldn't have anything else to do. There isn't a sport that runs the entire year," Gemerchak said.

Despite this lack of recognition, rowing has a prestigious history in the United States. Rowing was the first college sport, with the first race between Harvard and Yale in 1852. The USA won the Olympic gold medal every year in the men's eight from 1920-1956.

At Shaker, rowing is in its 13th season as a sport, and its seventh season as a varsity sport.

Physically, rowing is a very strenuous sport and uses all of the body's major muscles. USRowing.com closely relates rowing to cross-country skiing. Rowing a 2,000 meter race consumes as much energy as several back-to-back games of basketball.

Rowing is truly a team sport; if one person fails, the entire team fails. "They are very team oriented... you need everyone in the boat to work together. There is no one hero or superstar in the shell," Romilly said.

Their commitment and leadership set a good example. "They also always look out for the team and try to push all of us to do our best," junior Michelle Scharfstein said.

Polster, who is the coxswain in the boat (the person who steers and gives orders), said, "I've always found it nice that they follow instructions in the boat despite being both highly skilled and older than me."

Romilly added, "They make the coach's life easier by taking care of all the little things that need to be done before we get on the water." The captains lead warm-ups and everything the coaches don't control.

Both Gemerchak and Murphy plan on rowing in college. They believe next year's team has a bright future. Both feel comfortable with the possible captains for next year and Murphy feels that any of the five juniors would be good choices.

"It's going to be weird," said Gemerchak, "I feel like we're leaving them behind."